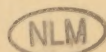


IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 21, 1879.



Mr. MATTHEWS asked and, by unanimous consent, obtained leave to bring in the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Select Committee to investigate and report the best means of preventing the introduction and spread of Epidemic Diseases.

A BILL

To prevent the introduction of contagious or infectious diseases into the United States, and to establish a Bureau of Public Health.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*
3 That there shall be established in the Treasury Department a
4 Bureau of Health, which shall consist of one chief executive
5 officer, to be called the Director-General of Health, to be
6 appointed by the President, by and with the advice and
7 consent of the Senate, who shall receive a salary of
8 thousand dollars per annum; and a Board of Health,
9 to consist of seven members, to be appointed by the Presi-
10 dent, whose compensation shall be dollars per diem and
11 actual reasonable expenses during the time when actually
12 engaged in the performance of their duties under this act.
13 The Surgeon-General of the Army and the Surgeon-General

14 of the Navy shall be ex officio additional members of said
15 board, but without additional pay. Said board shall meet in
16 Washington or elsewhere, from time to time, upon notice
17 from the Director-General of Health, and shall frame all rules
18 and regulations authorized or required by this act, and shall
19 make, or cause to be made, by members of their own body,
20 such special examinations and investigations, at any place or
21 places within the United States, as they may order, to aid in
22 the execution of this act and the promotion of its objects, sub-
23 ject to the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury. The
24 Director-General of Health shall be ex officio a member and
25 president of said Board of Health. All rules and regulations
26 under this act, framed by said Board of Health, shall be sub-
27 ject to the approval of the President, and shall then be
28 enforced by the Director-General of Health.

1 SEC. 2. That there shall be appointed by the Secretary
2 of the Treasury, in said Bureau of Health, one chief clerk, at
3 a salary of dollars, and such other assistants to the
4 Director-General of Health, not to exceed in all the number
5 of , whose compensation shall be that of clerks of
6 similar grades in the Treasury Department, and actual reason-
7 able traveling and other expenses when engaged under the
8 orders of the Director-General of Health, approved by the
9 Secretary of the Treasury, in the discharge of duties under
10 this act, elsewhere than at the seat of government.

1 SEC. 3. That the Bureau of Health shall be charged
2 with the supervision of all matters connected with
3 the Marine-Hospital Service; and the Director-General
4 of Health shall perform all the duties and exercise all
5 the powers now devolving upon the Supervising Surgeon
6 General of the Marine Hospital Service, which office is hereby
7 abolished, and all the records, papers, and other matters be-
8 longing thereto transferred to the Bureau of Health; and said
9 bureau is charged with the execution of the provisions of this
10 and all other acts and measures to prevent the introduction
11 of contagious or infectious diseases into the United States, and
12 the enforcement of all quarantine regulations, lawfully estab-
13 lished, in respect to all vessels and vehicles engaged in com-
14 merce with foreign nations and among the States, whether by
15 land or water. The Bureau of Health shall also be charged
16 with the execution of all laws and orders, rules and
17 regulations, made in pursuance thereof, for the improve-
18 ment of the sanitary condition of the District of Columbia.
19 The Bureau of Health shall also be charged with the
20 duty of obtaining information of the sanitary condition
21 of foreign ports and places from which contagious or
22 infectious diseases are or may be imported into the United
23 States; and to this end the consular officers of the United
24 States, at all ports and places, who may be required to do
25 so, by notice from the Secretary of the Treasury, shall

26 make to the Director-General of Health weekly reports of the
27 sanitary condition of the ports and places at which they are
28 respectively stationed, according to such forms as he may pre-
29 scribe; and the Bureau of Health shall also obtain, through the
30 medical officers of the Marine Hospital Service, collectors of cus-
31 toms, and such other sources as are accessible, including State
32 and municipal health officers and authorities throughout the
33 United States, weekly reports of the sanitary condition of
34 ports and places within the United States; and the Director-
35 General of Health shall prepare and transmit to the medi-
36 cal officers of the Marine Hospital Service, to collectors of
37 customs, and to State and municipal health officers
38 and authorities, weekly abstracts of the consular sanitary re-
39 ports, and other pertinent information received by him; and
40 said Bureau of Health shall also, as far as it may be able, by
41 means of the voluntary co-operation of State and municipal
42 authorities, of public associations and private persons, procure
43 information relating to births, deaths, marriages, the preva-
44 lence of disease, and such other facts as will furnish a basis
45 for securing a complete system of registration of vital statis-
46 tics for the United States, and also information relating to the
47 climatic, meteorological, geological, and other conditions
48 affecting the public health; and the Director-General of
49 Health shall make an annual report to the Secretary of the
50 Treasury of the operations of the Bureau of Health, for trans-

51 mission to Congress, with such recommendations as he may
52 deem important to the public interests.

1 SEC. 4. That it shall be unlawful for any vessel engaged
2 in the transportation of goods or persons from any foreign
3 country to and into the United States to enter any port of
4 the United States except in accordance with the provisions of
5 this act, and all rules and regulations made in pursuance
6 thereof and applicable thereto; and any such vessel which
7 shall enter or attempt to enter a port of the United States in
8 violation thereof shall forfeit to the United States a sum, to
9 be awarded in the discretion of the court, not exceeding five
10 thousand dollars, which shall be a lien upon said vessel, to be
11 recovered by proceedings in admiralty in the proper district
12 court of the United States.

1 SEC. 5. All such vessels shall be required to obtain from
2 the consul, vice-consul, or other consular officer of the United
3 States at the port of departure, a certificate, in duplicate, set-
4 ting forth that said vessel has in all respects complied with
5 the rules and regulations in such cases prescribed, and herein
6 authorized, for the disinfection of the said vessel, its cargo,
7 passengers, and crew; and said consular officer is required,
8 before granting such certificate, to be satisfied that the mat-
9 ters and things therein stated are true, and for his services
10 in that behalf shall be entitled to demand and receive such

11 fees as shall by lawful regulation be allowed, to be accounted
12 for as is required in other cases.

13 And all vessels sailing from the port of Havana, in the
14 island of Cuba, and bound for any port in the United States,
15 shall be required to obtain from a medical officer, serving in
16 the office of the consul of the United States at that port, to
17 be appointed by the President for that purpose, and who
18 shall receive a salary of thousand dollars per annum,
19 his certificate, setting forth that he has personally inspected
20 said vessel, her cargo, crew, and passengers; that the rules
21 and regulations prescribed by the Bureau of Health in respect
22 thereto have been fully complied with; and that, in his
23 opinion, the said vessel may be allowed to enter a port of the
24 United States and land its cargo and passengers, without
25 danger to the health thereof on account of any infectious
26 disease; and without such certificate of said medical officer,
27 it shall not be lawful for any such vessel to enter any port
28 of the United States.

1 SEC. 6. The Director-General of Health shall, from
2 time to time, issue to the consular officers of the United
3 States, and to the medical officer serving at the port of Ha-
4 vana, and otherwise make publicly known, in such manner
5 as shall be therein prescribed, the rules and regulations framed
6 by the Board of Health and approved by the President, to be
7 used and complied with by vessels in foreign ports, for disin-

8 fecting such vessels, their cargoes, passengers, and crew, be-
9 fore their departure for any port in the United States, and in
10 the course of the voyage; and also such other rules and regu-
11 lations which shall be observed in the inspection of the same,
12 on the arrival thereof at any quarantine station at the port
13 of destination, and for the disinfection and isolation of the
14 same, and the treatment of cargo and persons on board, so as
15 to prevent the spread of cholera, yellow fever, or other con-
16 tagious or infectious disease; and it shall not be lawful for
17 any vessel to enter said port, to discharge its cargo, or land
18 its passengers, except upon a permit from the health-officer
19 at such quarantine station, certifying that said rules and
20 regulations have in all respects been observed and
21 complied with, as well on his part as on the part of the said
22 vessel and its master, in respect to the same, and to its cargo,
23 passengers, and crew; and the master of every such vessel
24 shall produce and deliver to the collector of customs at said
25 port of entry, together with the other papers of the vessel,
26 the said certificates required to be obtained at the port of
27 departure, and the permit and certificate herein required to
28 be obtained from the health-officer at the port of entry. In
29 case the health-officer at any such port appointed by local
30 authority shall refuse to adopt and observe the rules and reg-
31 ulations prescribed by the Bureau of Health for the inspection,
32 disinfection, and treatment of vessels, their cargoes, passen-

33 gers, and crews, or, in the opinion of the Board of Health,
 34 shall neglect or fail so to do, it shall be the duty of the Sec-
 35 retary of the Treasury to appoint a health-officer of the
 36 United States for said port, who shall perform the duties
 37 thereof, as prescribed by said Bureau of Health; and to pro-
 38 vide for the salary of such health-officer and the necessary
 39 expenses of his office, the collector of customs at said port
 40 shall demand and collect*from every such vessel a fee of
 41 dollars; but it shall be the duty of the medical officers of
 42 the Marine Hospital Service and of customs-officers to aid in
 43 the enforcement of the rules and regulations authorized by
 44 this act, without additional compensation, except for actual
 45 and necessary traveling expenses incurred in the performance
 46 of such duties.

1 SEC. 7. That rules and regulations framed and approved
 2 as herein before authorized shall be promulgated, so that when
 3 cholera, yellow fever, or other similar contagious or infectious dis-
 4 ease shall be ascertained by the Director-General of Health to ex-
 5 ist in any port or place within any one of the United States, as
 6 to prevent as far as practicable, the spread of the same to other
 7 ports and places within other States, by means of vessels and
 8 vehicles engaged in the transportation of goods or passenges
 9 between two or more States, whether by land or water; and
 10 in that case, the Director-General of Health shall select suit-
 11 able localities for establishing quarantine stations on the rivers

12 and other lines of inter-State commerce and travel by railroads,
13 and may cause to be erected necessary temporary buildings
14 for the disinfection of passengers, baggage, cargoes, vessels,
15 and vehicles, and may enforce such rules and regulations
16 relating thereto as may have been prescribed therefor.

1 SEC. 8. That it shall be the duty of the Director-Gen-
2 eral of Health and of the Board of Health, so far as they law-
3 fully may, in the execution of their powers conferred upon
4 them by law, to correspond and co-operate with similar local
5 officers, boards, and authorities acting under laws of the
6 States in sanitary measures, to prevent the introduction and
7 spread of contagious and infectious diseases from foreign
8 countries into the United States, and from one State into any
9 other State, by means of commercial intercourse, and upon
10 and along the lines of inter-State trade and travel; and to that
11 end it shall be lawful for said Board of Health and Director-
12 General of Health to confer upon any such local officer or
13 board within or near the locality where his or its authority is
14 exercised, power also to enforce the provisions of this act and
15 any rules and regulations made in pursuance thereof.

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